5   What Is Claimed Is:

       1.   A program similarity detecting device comprising:

       a receiver adapted to receive an input stream of television program content

and electronic program guide data, and adapted to separate the electronic program

guide data from the input stream, wherein the program guide data includes a

10   plurality of attributes characterizing television programs within the television

program content;

       a memory coupled to the receiver and adapted to store the electronic

program guide data;

       a controller coupled to the memory; and

15   a display coupled to the controller;

       wherein the controller is programmed to compare a first set of attributes

relating to at least one television program within the television program content to

a second set of attributes relating to a second television program within the

television program content to determine a correlation between the first set of

20   attributes and the second set of attributes, wherein the controller is programmed to

determine whether the second television program is a similar to the first television

program based on the correlation between the first set of attributes and the second

set of attributes, and wherein the controller is programmed to cause the display to

generate a first display indicating the second television program if the second

25   television program is determined to be similar to the first television program.

       2.   The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed to

cause the display to generate a second display including an explanation describing

the correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes.

5   3.   The device of claim 2, wherein the explanation includes a textual description of the attributes used by the controller when determining the correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes.

4.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes characterizing television programs within the television program content include

10   category information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare category information associated with the first television program to category information associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

5.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes

15   characterizing television programs within the television program content include keywords and phrases and wherein the controller is programmed to compare keywords and phrases associated with the first television program to keywords and phrases associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

6.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes

20   characterizing television programs within the television program content include series information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare series information associated with the first television program to series information associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

7.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes

25   characterizing television programs within the television program content include group information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare group information associated with the first television program to group information associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

5   8.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes characterizing television programs within the television program content include credits information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare credits information associated with the first television program to credits information associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

10   9.   The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes characterizing television programs within the television program content include name information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare name information associated with the first television program to name information associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

15   10.   The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed to calculate a similarity score for each of a plurality of the television programs included in the television program content by determining a correlation between the first set of attributes and a further set of attributes associated with each of the plurality of television programs.

20   11.   The device of claim 10, wherein the memory stores a cutoff score and wherein the controller is programmed to compare the similarity score to the cutoff score and to limit the number of indications of television programs displayed on the display using the cutoff score.

5   12.   A method of identifying similar programs within a video reception

system comprising the steps of:

           storing first characterizing information associated with a first television

program;

           receiving further characterizing information associated with each of a set of

10   second television programs;

           performing a similarity comparison between the first characterizing

information and each of the further characterizing information to determine a third

set of television programs, wherein the third set of television programs comprises

the television programs within the second set of television programs having further

15   characterizing information that matches the first characterizing information to a

specific degree; and

           displaying indications of the third set of television programs.

           13.   The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying

20   an explanation of the results of the similarity comparison.

           14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the step of displaying an

explanation further comprises the step of displaying of an attribute associated with

the further characterizing information that matches an attribute associated with the

first characterizing information.

25   15.   The method of claim 13, wherein the step of displaying an

explanation further comprises the step of displaying the explanation textually.

           16.   The method of claim 12, wherein the first characterizing

information and the further characterizing information include attributes and

wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between the first

30   characterizing information and the further characterizing information further

5   comprises the step of performing a comparison between the attributes of the first

characterizing information and the attributes of the further characterizing

information.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include category

information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

10   the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

further comprises the step of performing a comparison between category

information of the first characterizing information and category information of the

further characterizing information.

18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include keywords

15   and phrases and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

further comprises the step of performing a comparison between keywords and

phrases of the first characterizing information and keywords and phrases of the

further characterizing information.

20   19.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include series

information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

further comprises the step of performing a comparison between series information

of the first characterizing information and series information of the further

25   characterizing information.

20.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include group

information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

further comprises the step of performing a comparison between group information

5   of the first characterizing information and group information of the further

characterizing information.

21.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include credits

information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

10   further comprises the step of performing a comparison between credits information

of the first characterizing information and credits information of the further

characterizing information.

22.   The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include name

information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between

15   the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information

further comprises the step of performing a comparison between name information

of the first characterizing information and name information of the further

characterizing information.

23.   The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of calculating a

20   similarity score for each of the television programs in the second set of television

programs, wherein the similarity score is based upon the similarity comparison and

wherein the step of displaying includes the step of displaying indications of the

third set of television programs based on the calculated similarity scores.

24.   A method of displaying program similarity explanations comprising

25   the steps of:

       transmitting program guide data, the program guide data including

characterizing information for each of a plurality of television programs;

       receiving the program guide data;

       storing the program guide data in a memory;

5 identifying a first set of television programs;

storing characterizing information for the first set of television programs;

correlating the characterizing information of the first set of television

programs with characterizing information of a second set television programs; and

displaying an indication of the television programs within the second set of

10 television programs that is correlated to a predetermined degree with the first set of

television programs.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of displaying the

indication includes the step of displaying an explanation of the correlation between

the first set of television programs and one of the television programs within the

15 second set of television programs that are correlated to a predetermined degree

with the first set of television programs.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the first set of television programs

includes one television program.